

Unit Eighteen

Nihon nitsuite dō omoimasu ka.

What do you think about Japan?

In this unit you will learn about:

- the difference between the formal style speech and plain style speech
- how to make the plain style form of verb, i-adjective, na-adjective, and noun
- how to express one's opinion
- Kan-ji

Dialogue 1 - What did you eat last night? -

Mr O'Neil and Miss Okada are very close friends. Now they are talking about yesterday.

おかだ : オニールさん、きのうのばん なにを たべた？
オニール : ぼくは すしを たべた。
おかだ : いいね。すしやで たべた？
オニール : ううん、うちで たべた。
おかだ : じぶんで すしを つくった？
オニール : ううん、うちの ちかくの スーパーで かった。
おかだ : そう。おいしかった？
オニール : うん、おいしかったよ。

Okada : Onīru -san, kinō no ban nani o tabeta?
Onīru : Boku wa sushi o tabeta.
Okada : Ī ne. Sushi-ya de tabeta?
Onīru : Ūn, uchi de tabeta.
Okada : Jibun de sushi o tsukutta?
Onīru : Ūn, uchi no chikaku no sūpā de katta.
Okada : Sō. Oishikatta?
Onīru : Un, oishikatta.

Vocabulary

ぼく	boku	I (for a male)	ううん	ūn	no (plain style)
すしや	sushi-ya	sushi bar	うん	un	yes (plain style)
じぶんで	jibun de	by oneself			

 Write ○ if the statement agrees with the dialogue. Write × if not.

1. () Mr O'Neil ate sushi at home yesterday.
2. () According to Mr O'Neil, the sushi that he bought at the supermarket was expensive.

Language Points

Two Japanese Speech Styles: Plain style and polite style

Japanese language has two speech styles: polite style and plain style. The polite style (which predicates use 'desu' 'masu' form) is used in more formal situations, such as when one is talking to a stranger or senior, whereas the plain style is used in more casual situations such as when one is talking to a close friend.

Below is a comparison between the polite style and plain style of Verbs, i-adjectives, na-adjectives and nouns. 'V-dic', 'V-nai', 'V-ta' form are part of the plain style form.

1. Verb: Change the part in bold as below.

	Non-past aff.	Non-past neg.	Past aff.	Past neg.
Polite style	tabemasu	tabemasen	tabemashita	tabemasende shita
Plain style	taberu (V-dic form)	tabenai (V-nai form)	tabeta (V-ta form)	tabenakatta

2. I-adjective: Take away 'desu' from the polite style form

	Non-past aff.	Non-past neg.	Past aff.	Past neg.
Polite style	atsui desu	atsukunai desu	atsukatta desu	atsukunakatta desu
Plain style	atsui	atsukunai	atsukatta	atsukunakatta

3. Na-adjective: Change the parts in bold as below.

	Non-past aff.	Non-past neg.	Past aff.	Past neg.
Polite style	benri desu	benri dewa arimasen	benri deshita	benri dewa arimasendeshita
Plain style	benri da	benri dewa nai (or ja nai)	benri data	benri dewa nakatta (or ja nakatta)

4. Noun: Change the parts in bold as below.

	Non-past aff.	Non-past neg.	Past aff.	Past neg.
Polite style	gakusē desu	gakusē dewa arimasen	gakusē deshita	gakusē dewa arimasendeshita
Plain style	gakusē da	gakusē dewanai (or ja nai)	gakusē data	gakusē dewa nakatta (or ja nakatta)

Exercise 1

Change the following words from the polite style to the plain style as shown by the example below:

Example tabemasu (*taberu*)

1. nemasu () [go to bed; sleep]	6. hontō desu () [true; indeed]
2. kakimashita () [wrote]	7. shizuka dewa () arimasen [not quiet]
3. kimasen () [do not come]	8. suki desu () [like]
4. mimasendeshita () [did not see/watch]	9. yasumi desu () [holiday; off duty]
5. mezurashī desu () [rare]	10. mushiatsukatta () desu [was hot and humid]

Vocabulary

mezurashī (i-adj.) rare
hontō truth; indeed

mushiatsui (i-adj.) soggy, hot and humid

Exercise 2



Complete the following table by inserting the right word from the list below. You can use the same word more than once.

Unit	Polite style	Plain style	meaning
9	mit <u>ai</u> <u>desu</u>	mi [Example <i>tai</i>]	want to watch
10	<u>hoshī</u> <u>desu</u>	[1.]	want (something)
13	mite mo <u>ī</u> <u>desu</u> mite wa <u>ikemasen</u>	mite mo [2.] mite wa [3.]	(you) may watch (you) must not watch
14	mite <u>imasu</u>	mite [4.]	(you) are watching
15	minakereba <u>narimasen</u> minakutemo <u>ī</u> <u>desu</u>	minakereba [5.] minakutemo [6.]	(you) must watch (you) do not have to watch
16	mitakoto ga <u>arimasu</u>	mitakoto ga [7.]	(you) have watched
17	shumi wa mirukoto <u>desu</u> mirukoto ga <u>dekimasu</u> mirukoto ga <u>suki desu</u>	shumi wa mirukoto [8.] mirukoto ga [9.] mirukoto ga suki [10.]	(hobby is) watching (you) can watch (you) like watching

da, imasu, hoshī, ~~tai~~, naranai, aru, ī, iru, ikenai, dekiru

Plain style form (1):

There are several rules that apply when you use the plain style form in conversation.

1. The plain style form of 'hai' and 'te' are 'un' and 'ūn' respectively.

Polite style	はい hai	いいえ īe
Plain style	うん un	ううん ūn

2. The question is indicated by the rising intonation, not by the verbal question marker 'ka'.

- a. Q: Kore taberu ~~ka~~? ↗ (Do you eat this?)
 A: Un, taberu. ↘ (Yes, I will eat.)

3. The particles 'wa', 'ga' 'o' are often omitted.

- a. Kore (wa) watashi no hon dewa nai (or janai). (This is not my book.)
 b. Q: Kino nani(o) tabeta? (What did you eat yesterday?)
 A: Sushi(o) tabeta. (I ate sushi.)

4. 'Da' in the na-adjective and non-past affirmative noun is dropped in spoken Japanese.

- a. Q: Kore Okada-san no hon ~~da~~? (Is this your book, Miss Okada?)
 A: Un, so ~~da~~. (Yes, that is right.)
 b. Q: Sono jisho benri ~~da~~? (Is that dictionary useful?)
 A: Un, benri ~~da~~. (Yes, it is useful.)

Exercise 3



Answer the following questions in the plain style form. You are supposed to be a contradictory person who always says 'no'.

Example Q: Taberu? (Do you eat?) ----- A: Ūn, tabenai. (No, I do not eat.)

- Q: Mushiatsui? (Hot and humid?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.
- Q: Benkyō shita? (Did you study?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.
- Q: Sushi suki? (Do you like sushi?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.
- Q: Nihon-jin? (Are you Japanese?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.
- Q: Kinō itta? (Did you go yesterday?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.
- Q: Are kau? (Do you buy that?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.
- Q: Oyogitai? (Do you want to swim?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.
- Q: Dekiru? (Can you do?) ---- A: Ūn, _____.

Exercise 4



Rewrite the following dialogues, using the plain style form.

1) Polite style	Plain style
A: Kore wa Yamada-san no kasa desu ka.	A: ¹⁾ _____ ?
B: Īe, sore wa Honda-san no kasa desu.	B: ²⁾ _____.
A: Sō desu ka.	A: ³⁾ _____.

2) Polite style	Plain style
A: Ashita doko e ikimasu ka.	A: ¹⁾ _____ ?
B: Toshokan e ikimasu.	B: ²⁾ _____.
A: Toshokan de benkyō shimasu ka.	A: ³⁾ _____ ?
B: Īe, toshokan de tomodachi to aimasu.	B: ⁴⁾ _____.

3) Polite style	Plain style
A: Kinō wa mushiatsukatta desu ne.	A: ¹⁾ _____.
B: Hai, hontō ni mushiatsukatta desu ne.	B: ²⁾ _____.
A: Demo, kyō wa chotto suzushī desu ne.	A: ³⁾ _____.

4) Polite style	Plain style
A: Kono tatemono no naka ni ATM ga arimasu ka.	A: ¹⁾ _____ ?
B: Īe, arimasen.	B: ²⁾ _____.

Vocabulary -----

hontō ni (adv.)

indeed

ATM (pronounces ATM
as ētīemu)

Dialogue 2 - What do you think about Japan? -

Miss Okada is talking her colleague, Mr Howaito.

おかだ : ホワイトさんは もう 日本に 何年ぐらい すんでいますか。
 ホワイト : もう 10 年くらい すんでいます。
 おかだ : 10 年ですか。ながいですね。日本について どう おもいますか。
 ホワイト : そうですね。きれいなくにだ とおもいます。そして、あんぜんで、とても すみやすいくにだ とおもいます。
 おかだ : じゃあ、日本人について どう おもいますか。
 ホワイト : 日本人は とても しんせつだ とおもいます。ですから、私は 日本が大好きです。

Okada : Howaito-san wa mō nihon ni nan-nen gurai sunde imasu ka.
 Howaito : Mō 10-nen kurai sunde imasu.

Okada : 10-nen desu ka. Nagai desu ne. Nihon nitsuite dō omoimasu ka.
 Howaito : Sō desu ne. Kirē na kuni da to omoimasu. Soshite, anzen de, totemo sumiyasui kuni da to omoimasu.
 Okada : Jā, nihon-jin nitsuite dō omoimasu ka.
 Howaito : Nihon-jin wa totemo shinsetsu da to omomasu. Desukara, watashi wa Nihon ga daisuki desu.

Vocabulary

～について	～nitsuite	about	と	to	[quotation marker]
すみやすい	sumiyasui	easy to live			
～やすい	～yasui	easy to ...	おもいます	omoimasu	to think ...

 Write ○ if the statement agrees with the dialogue. Write × if not.

- () Mr O'Neil will have lived in Japan for ten years by next year
- () Mr O'Neil thinks that Japan is a beautiful country.

Language Points

Plain style form (2): Expressing one's thoughts/opinion

'Omoimasu' means 'think'. The pattern '[plain style form] to omoimasu' is used when one expresses one's opinion. The particle 'to' is used as a quotation marker.

Plain style form	
verb	miru, minai, mita, minakatta
i-adj	nagai, nagakunai, nagakatta, nagakunakatta
na-adj	shizukada, shizukadewa (or ja)nai, shizukadatta, shizuka dewa (or ja)nakatta
noun	Yasumida, yasumidewa (or ja)nai, yasumidatta, yasumidewa (or ja)nakatta

to omoimasu

- Yamada-san wa mō kaetta to omoimasu. (I think that Mrs Yamada has already gone home.)
- Kanji wa muzukashikunai to omoimasu. (I think Kanji is not difficult.)
- Nihonjin wa shinsetsu da to omoimasu. (I think Japanese people are kind.)
- Ano hito wa Nihon-jin dewa nai to omoimasu. (I think that person over there is not Japanese.)

The interrogative one uses to ask for someone's opinion is 'dō'. 'X nitsuite' means 'about X'. Note the quotation marker 'to' is dropped when the sentence uses 'dō' and 'sō' as below:

Topic nitsuite dō to omoimasu ka

e. Q: Nihon no natsu nitsuite dō omoimasu ka.

(What do you think about the Japanese summer?)

A: Mushiatsui to omoimasu.

(I think it is hot and humid.)

Q: Watashi mo sō omoimasu.

(I think so, too.)

★ This structure is used with a verb 'imasu'(to say), except that the interrogative used is 'nan'(what).

f. Q: Michiko-san wa nan to imashita ka.

(What did Michiko say?)

A: 'Ashita wa watashi no tanjōbi desu' to imashita.

(She said, 'Tomorrow is my birthday.')

Exercise 5



Complete the dialogue appropriately, using the information in the brackets.

1. Q: Nihon no shūkan nitsuite dō omoimasu ka.

A: (tokidoki fushigi desu) _____ to omoimasu.

2. Q: Chikyū no kankyō nitsuite dō omoimasu ka.

A: (shinkoku na mondai desu) _____ to omoimasu.

3. Q: Ashita wa ī tenki da to omoimasu ka.

A: Īe, (ashita wa ame ga furimasu) _____ to omoimasu.

4. Q: Heya ni dareka iru to omoimasu ka.

A: Īe, (daremo imasen) _____ to omoimasu.

5. Q: Kaigi ni maniau to omoimasu ka.

A: Īe, (ma ni aimasen) _____ to omoimasu.

Vocabulary

shūkan

custom

fushigi (na) (na-adj.)

strange

chikyū

globe; world;

earth

kankyō

environment

shinkoku(na) (na-adj.)

serious

mondai

problem; issue

maniaimasu

to arrive on

time

Exercise 6



Read out the following text and then draw a ○ if the statement agrees with it and a × if not.

Mr O'Neil's family, who live in the UK, is planning to visit Japan next year. They plan to stay in Japan for two weeks. He wrote an email to Miss Okada for some advice on which season is best for visiting and where she would recommend taking them to; her reply is as below:

オニールさん

そうですね。私は なつが いい とも思います。日本のなつは むしあついですが、たくさん おまつりが ありますから、たのしいです。オニールさんは、とくしまけんの 「あわおどり」というおまつりを きいたことが ありますか。「あわおどり」は、とても ゆうめいな おまつりで、たくさんのひとが みちで おどります。わたしも 3年前に 「あわおどり」を 見に 行きました。とても にぎやかで たのしい おまつりだ ともいました。「あわおどり」は 毎年 8月に あります。4日間 あります。とうきょうから とくしまけんまで ひこうきでも、でんしゃでも、フェリーでも、バスでも 行くことが できます。

私は とくしまけんのガイドブックを もっていますから、かしましようか。
メールを ください。

じゃあ、また。

おかだ

1. () Miss Okada thinks the spring is the best season to visit Japan.
2. () According to Miss Okada, 'Awa Odori' is a festival in which many people dance in the street.
3. () Miss Okada offered to lend Mr O'Neil a guidebook on Tokushima prefecture.

Vocabulary -----

とくしまけん	Tokushima prefecture	フェリー	ferry
あわおどり	one of the most famous festivals in Japan	ガイドブック	guide book

Dialogue English Translation

Unit 9

Dialogue 1

- Jiro : Emma, have you already bought the train ticket?
Emma : No, not yet. I am going to buy it online this afternoon.
Jiro : Really? Is this your first time going to Nagano, Emma?
Emma : Yes, this is my first time.
Jiro : What do you want to do in Nagano?
Emma : I want to take a lot of photos. And I want to try the hot spring.

Dialogue 2

- Jiro : Where did you go over the summer holiday, Emma?
Emma : I went to America in the summer holiday.
Jiro : Why did you go there?
Emma : I went there to see my friend in New York.
Jiro : What did you do in New York?
Emma : I took a sightseeing in New York with my friend.

Dialogue 3

- Jiro : Emma, have you ever watched Sumo before?
Emma : No, not yet. I would love to watch it.
Jiro : Then, why don't you go to watch sumo with me this weekend?
Emma : Really? I am delighted to. But what day of the week is it?
Jiro : It is Sunday. Are you busy this Sunday, Emma?
Emma : No, I am free.
Jiro : My friend is also coming but is that ok for you?
Emma : Of course.
Jiro : Then, let's go together.

Unit 10

Dialogue 1

- Mr Clark : Miss Akita, tomorrow is the bonus day, isn't it?
What do you want with that bonus?
Miss Akita : I want a new computer.
Mr Clark : Why do you want a new computer?
Miss Akita : Because my current computer is already old.
Besides, the current one is slightly slow.
Mr Clark : Is that so?

Dialogue 2

- Mr Clark : I am going to go to karaoke with others.
Won't you come with us as well, Miss Akita?
Miss Akita : I want to go but I will go home today because I have a headache.
Mr Clark : That is bad.

I have some medicine. Do you take them?
Miss Akita : Thank you. Then, please give me one.

Dialogue 3

Miss Akita : Mr Clark, thank you for giving me the medicine last Friday.
Mr Clark : You're welcome. Are you already all right?
Miss Akita : Yes, I received some medicine from a doctor last Saturday.
Mr Clark : Really? That was good.
Miss Akita : By the way, how was Karaoke last Friday?
Mr Clark : It was very enjoyable.
Let's go (to Karaoke) together next time.
Miss Akita : Yes, by all means.

Unit 11

Dialogue 1

Mr Tanaka : Miss Smith, what do you often do on off-duty day?
Miss Sumisu : I often go to the park for a walk.
Mr Tanaka : Really? Then, shall we go to Shinjuku Gyoen together this Saturday?
Miss Sumisu : What is Shinjuku Gyoen?
Mr Tanaka : It is a spacious and beautiful park.
It is in Shinjuku ward.
Miss Sumisu : Is it far from Shinjuku Station?
Mr Tanaka : No, it is nearby. It is about 10-minute walk from Shinjuku Station.
Miss Sumisu : That is handy. Then, let's go (there) together this Saturday.

Dialogue 2

Mr Tanaka : Miss Smith, what did you do last weekend?
Miss Sumisu : I went to a mountain nearby with my friend.
Mr Tanaka : Really? How was the weather?
Miss Sumisu : It was good. It was slightly cloudy and cold in the morning, but it became warm in the afternoon.
Mr Tanaka : Did you go to the top of the mountain?
Miss Sumisu : Yes. It took for two hours because we walked.
Mr Tanaka : That must be tough.
Miss Sumisu : Yes. But the view from the top was really beautiful.
Mr Tanaka : Were there a lot of people there?
Miss Sumisu : No, there were a few people.

Unit 12

Dialogue 1

Mrs Kato : Mr Jones, this is a photo of my son.
Mr Jones : He looks very like you. How old is he now?
Mrs Kato : He became 16 years old last month.
Mr Jones : Really? He has long legs. And he is tall.
Mrs Kato : Yes, he is tallest in the family.

Mr Jones : How tall is he?
Mrs Kato : Probably he is around 185cm.

Dialogue 2

Mr Jones : Mrs Kato, this optician has many customers.
Mrs Kato : It is because this place is cheap and popular.
Mr Jones : There are glasses with various colours.
Mrs Kato : Indeed. Which colour do you prefer, bright colour or dark colour?
Mr Jones : I prefer bright colours.
Mrs Kato : Then, how about this red pair of glasses?
Mr Jones : It is a little gaudy.
Mrs Kato : Then, how about this brown pair of glasses?
Mr Jones : That is lovely. I will take that.

Unit 13

Dialogue 1

Mr Howard : Excuse me but please tell me how to read this kanji.
A waitress : Ah, that kanji is 'tempura'.
Mr Howard : Really? Then, I will have 'tempura udon'.
A waitress : Certainly.
Mr Howard : And please bring a bottle of beer together with it.
A waitress : Certainly.

Dialogue 2

Mrs Nagano : Mr Holmes, this is your room.
Mr Howard : This is. It is spacious. Oh, there is an entrance hall in the room.
Why?
Mrs Nagano : It is because you must not wear shoes inside the room.
Mr Howard : Really? Oh, there are slippers in the entrance hall. Do I wear slippers inside the room?
Mrs Nagano : No, you must not wear slippers inside the room. Please use them outside the room.
Mr Howard : I see. By the way, May I smoke in the room?
Mrs Nagano : No, you must not smoke because your room is 'non-smoking'. But you can smoke in the lobby.

Unit 14

Dialogue 1

Mr Enokida : Ms Park, how are you coming to my place this Saturday?
Ms Park : I am going by train.
Mr Enokida : Then, please get off at Sakura Station and get out from the South Exit. A bus stop is in front of the South Exit so please take a 73 bus, get off at the bus stop called In front of Sakura Hospital.
Ms Park : How many stops do I have before arriving at 'In front of Sakura Hospital'?

Mr Enokida : It is the fourth stop.

Dialogue 2

Mr Enokida : Hello, Ms Park.

Ms Park : Oh hello, Mr Enokida.

Mr Enokida : Ms Park, what were you doing at 8pm in the evening yesterday?

Ms Park : I was watching a Korean film at home because it was raining yesterday.

Mr Enokida : Was it enjoyable?

Ms Park : Yes, it was very enjoyable. I have the DVD of that film so please watch it someday.

Dialogue 3

Ms Park : Mr Enokida, what do you do for your health?

Mr Enokida : I eat vegetable every day. And I also swim every weekend. How about you, Ms Park?

Ms Park : I swim at the pool nearby.

Mr Enokida : How long do you swim?

Ms Park : I swim for about one hour.

Mr Enokida : That is great.

Unit 15

Dialogue 1

Mrs Kaneko : Mr Gregory, please can you bring that chair here.

Mr Gregory : Sure. Shall I bring this table there, as well?

Mrs Kaneko : No, please do not move that table.

Mr Gregory : OK.

Mrs Kaneko : And please make 10 copies of this document. This is an important document so please do not lose it..

Mr Gregory : OK.

Dialogue 2

Mrs Kaneko : Mr Gregory, why don't you come to my house to have a meal together this weekend?

Mr Gregory : I am sorry but I cannot come. I am going to take a Japanese exam next month so I must study Japanese this weekend.

Mrs Kaneko : Is that so? Is it a difficult exam?

Mr Gregory : Yes, I must learn (by heart) 300 Kanji by the exam so I have been studying Kanji every day.

Mrs Kaneko : You know a lot of Kanji so you do not have to worry about it.

Unit 16

Dialogue 1

Mr Hancock : Miss Inoue, what do you want to do this weekend?

Miss Inoue : Well, I want to do various things such as swimming in the pool, borrowing some books at the library. How about you, Mr Hancock?

Mr Hancock : I want to go to the city centre to buy some clothes.
Miss Inoue : What do you want to buy?
Mr Hancock : I want to buy clothes such as a new pair of trousers and sweater.
Miss Inoue : Really?

Dialogue 2

Mr Hancock : Miss Inoue, when did you graduate the university?
Miss Inoue : I graduated the university the year before last year.
Mr Hancock : What did you do after graduating?
Miss Inoue : I travelled various countries.
Mr Hancock : Really. That sounds nice.

Dialogue 3

Miss Inoue : Mr Hancock, have you ever borrowed a book at this library?
Mr Hancock : No, I have not. (It is) because I do not have a library card.
Miss Inoue : Then, let's create one today.
Mr Hancock : Isn't it difficult?
Miss Inoue : No, it is easy.

Unit 17

Dialogue 1

Miss White : Mr Yanagi, you have many guitars, don't you?
Mr Yanagi : Yes. That is because my hobby is collecting guitars. What about your hobby, Miss White?
Miss White : My hobby is playing the piano.
Mr Yanagi : Really? Then, shall we go to a piano concert someday?
Miss White : That is great. Definitely.

Dialogue 2

Mr Yanagi : Where did you live before coming to Japan?
Miss White : I lived in Mexico.
Mr Yanagi : Then, can you speak Spanish?
Miss White : Yes, I can speak it only a little.
Mr Yanagi : That is great.

Unit 18

Dialogue 1

Miss Okada : What did you eat last night, Mr O'Neil?
Mr O'Neil : I ate sushi.
Miss Okada : That is nice. Did you eat sushi at a sushi bar?
Mr O'Neil : No, I ate it at home.
Miss Okada : Did you make sushi by yourself?
Mr O'Neil : No, I bought it from the supermarket near my house.
Miss Okada : Really? Was it delicious?
Mr O'Neil : Yes, it was delicious.

Dialogue 2

Miss Okada : How long have you lived in Japan?

Mr White : I have lived in Japan for 10 years.

Miss Okada : 10 years! That is a long period of time. What do you think about Japan?

Mr White : I think it is a beautiful country. I also think Japan is safe and easy to live.

Miss Okada : Then, what do you think about Japanese people?

Mr White : I think they are very kind. I like Japan very much.